

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 561 without my signature.

This bill will place several mandates on the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and is ultimately unnecessary. To the extent this bill codifies existing policy and practice, it is unnecessary. To the extent the bill mandates very specific provisions it removes management flexibility to respond to the changing needs of our institutions and fiscal limitations.

I appreciate and share the author's interest in improving correctional education programs within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, which is one of the reasons why I reorganized the Department effective July 1, 2005. This reorganization includes the development of the Division of Education, Vocations, and Offender Programs within Adult Programs and their mission includes many of the same goals articulated in this bill.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger